

## CLAIMS

1. An accelerator for mineral absorption, which comprises as an effective ingredient cyclic tetrasaccharide represented  
5 by cyclo{→6)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→3)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→6)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→3)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→} and/or a saccharide derivative thereof.

2. The accelerator of claim 1, which comprises in addition to said cyclic tetrasaccharide represented by  
10 cyclo{→6)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→3)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→6)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→3)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→} and/or said saccharide derivative thereof one or more members selected from the group consisting of mineral compounds and substances having a mineral absorption promoting action.

15 3. The accelerator of claim 1 or 2, which comprises in addition to said cyclic tetrasaccharide represented by cyclo{→6)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→3)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→6)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→3)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→} and/or said saccharide derivative thereof one or more members, excluding  
20 said cyclic tetrasaccharide and said saccharide derivative thereof, selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, oligosaccharides, sugar alcohols, cyclodextrins, vitamins, water-soluble polysaccharides, spices, acidifiers, delicious taste imparting seasoning, liquors, organic acids, non-organic  
25 acids, emulsifiers, perfumeries and colorants.

4. The accelerator of claim 2 or 3, wherein said mineral compound is one or more members selected from the group consisting of calcium compounds, magnesium compounds, potassium

compounds, sodium compounds, iron compounds, manganese compounds, cobalt compounds, copper compounds, zinc compounds, selenium compounds, fluorine compounds and iodine compounds.

5        5. The accelerator of any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein said substance having a mineral absorption promoting action, is one or more members selected from the group consisting of casein phosphopeptide, vitamin, polyphenol and oligosaccharide.

10       6. The accelerator of any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein said vitamin is one or more members selected from the group consisting of vitamin D, vitamin K, L-ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof.

15       7. The accelerator of any one of claims 2 to 6, wherein said polyphenol is one or more members selected from the group consisting of flavonoids including hesperetin, naringenin, quercetin, hesperidin, enzyme-glycosylated narandin, rutin, enzyme-glycosylated rutin and proanthocyanidin; catechin; and epigallocatechin.

20       8. The accelerator of any one of claims 2 to 7, wherein said oligosaccharide is one or more members selected from the group consisting of fructooligosaccharide, isomaltooligosaccharide, xylooligosaccharide, lactosucrose, soybean oligosaccharide, kojioligosaccharide, galactosylglucoside, saccharide derivative of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -trehalose,  $\alpha,\alpha$ -trehalose and/or  $\alpha,\beta$ -trehalose.

25       9. The accelerator of any one of claims 1 to 8, which comprises said cyclic tetrasaccharide represented by cyclo{ $\rightarrow 6$ }- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 3)- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 6)- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 3)- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ ) and/or said

saccharide derivative thereof in an amount of 0.1 % by weight or more, on a dry solid basis.

10. The accelerator of any one of claims 1 to 9, which is used as an agent for strengthening calcium-containing tissue.

5 11. The accelerator of any one of claims 1 to 9, which is used as an agent for strengthening bone.

12. The accelerator of any one of claims 1 to 9, which is used as an agent for lowering foreign taste and/or foreign smell.

10 13. A composition for accelerating mineral absorption, which contains the accelerator of any one of claims 1 to 12.